



UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ATTENTION: ALL EDITORS / REPORTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA STATEMENT: UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY MAYOR WISHES 36 LOCAL ATHLETES WELL AHEAD OF THE 2026 COMRADES MARATHON

The Mayor of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Cllr Zukiswa Ndevu extends heartfelt wishes of success and safe participation to Mr. Xolisa Blaweni, the Manager for Supply Chain Management (SCM) who will be participating in this year's Comrades Marathon taking place on Sunday 14 June 2026, starting in Durban and finishing in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr. Blaweni's participation in one of the world's most prestigious ultramarathon events is a source of immense pride for the municipality and his colleagues. His dedication, discipline, perseverance, and commitment to personal excellence serve as an inspiration to municipal employees, young people, and the broader community of Umzimvubu.

The municipality also takes this opportunity to wish well the 35 other athletes who are members of the XJ Athletic Club from across the Umzimvubu jurisdiction who will be participating in this year's Comrades Marathon. Their achievement in qualifying for and competing in this iconic race demonstrates the remarkable sporting talent, determination, and resilience that exist within Umzimvubu.

As they prepare to take on the demanding challenge of the Comrades Marathon, the municipality encourages them to participate with pride, determination, and excellence. As part of the 21,633 athletes participating in this year's **Up Run edition of 85.77km**, they join thousands of runners in one of the world's most iconic ultramarathons. They carry with them the hopes, encouragement, and support of the people of Umzimvubu Local Municipality.

"We commend all participants for the countless hours of training, sacrifice, and commitment that have brought them to this moment. Regardless of the outcome, they have already made our municipality proud through their dedication to sport and healthy living.

On behalf of the Council, administration, and residents of Umzimvubu Local Municipality, we wish Mr. Xolisa Blaweni and all 35 athletes a successful, safe, and memorable Comrades Marathon. May they achieve their personal goals and return home with stories of accomplishment and inspiration", concluded Mayor Ndevu.

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